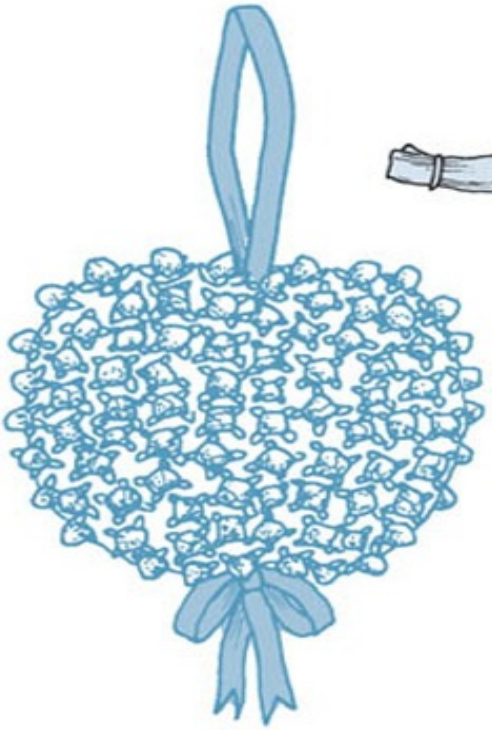
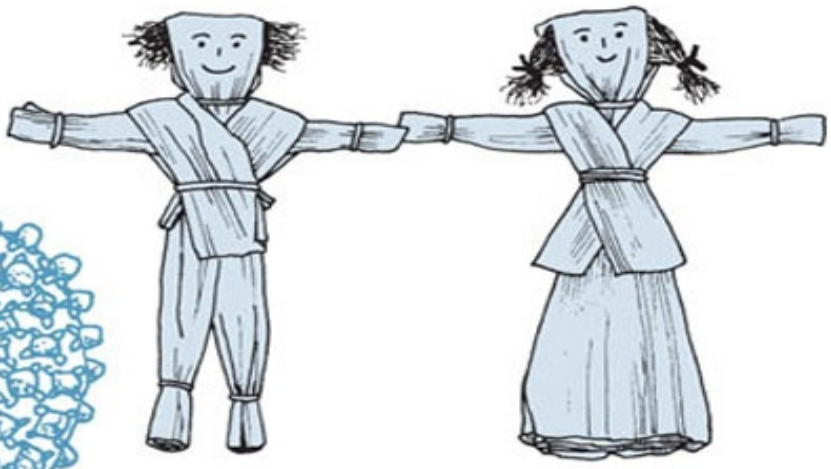
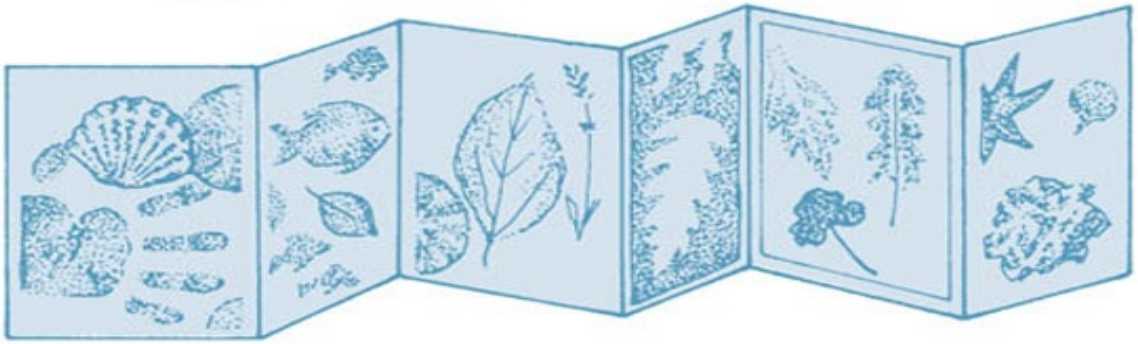
VISIT…

HOLIDAY GIFTS

KIDS CAN MAKE







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A Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin

Holiday Gifts Kids Can Make

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More than 15 Festive Projects

Children love Christmas, and part of the joy and excitement of the season is in the making of decorations and gifts for family and friends. This bulletin is a collection of projects that will delight parents and children alike.

Whatever the talent level, this bulletin includes something for everyone. There are projects suited for the smallest of crafters, as well as creative challenges for those with more experience. All the instructions are simple and clear to assure success.

Many of the projects are made with items found in nature. The use of readily accessible materials makes the projects affordable, preserves the beauty around us, and gives the gifts a feeling of timelessness. Most important of all, parents and children will be creating something more precious than gifts. They will be making memories of holiday times spent together.

Gifts from Nature

Use the Tempera Nature Printing or Bubble Printing methods to create cards, stationery, gift wrap, prints to frame, or decorative mats for photos. Collect leaves, grass, and delicate meadow flowers, and press them to make sun prints, stationery, cards, or a bookmark. Even toddlers can enjoy making their own stamped gift wrap (with a little help from their parents) by doing the Apple Print project.

BUBBLE PRINTING

adapted from *Nature Printing with Herbs, Fruits and Flowers*

The bubble pattern is found frequently in nature: in rushing water, honeycombs, seedpods, and the tiny world of cell structure.

What You Will Need

Mild liquid soap

Several colors of water-soluble bottled pen ink

Wide-top containers or jars

Drinking straws

Printing paper or plain-colored gift-wrapping paper

1. Set out a container for each ink color. Put one inch of liquid soap in each container. Add one tablespoon of ink and one straw to each container, and mix.

2. Blow through the straw until bubbles come up over the top of the container.

3. Remove the straw and lay a sheet of paper on top of the bubbles. On contact, the pattern will appear on the paper. Repeat the process with the other ink colors on the same sheet of paper to make a multicolored design.

4. Thin paper will buckle as it dries. To flatten, apply a warm iron to the dried bubble print. These designs make delightful pictures just as they are, or you can add nature prints of leaves and other natural objects.

TEMPERA NATURE PRINTING

adapted from *Nature Printing with Herbs, Fruits and Flowers*

Many of the printing supplies used by adults, such as oil-based inks, can be used by older children under the supervision of an adult. Young children should use only nontoxic supplies. While most water-based ink is nontoxic, there is a simpler method using tempera paint, which contains materials that are safe for children. It is inexpensive, and washable with soap and water.

Tempera paint alone produces poor prints. A combination of tempera, honey, and glycerin forms a workable mixture that coats objects evenly and doesn't dry while you're working with it.

What You Will Need

Liquid tempera (Crayola brand, or other good-quality paints)

Dabbers (see page 7 for how to make your own)

Small containers or cups for mixing tempera recipe

Glycerin (from a pharmacy)

Honey

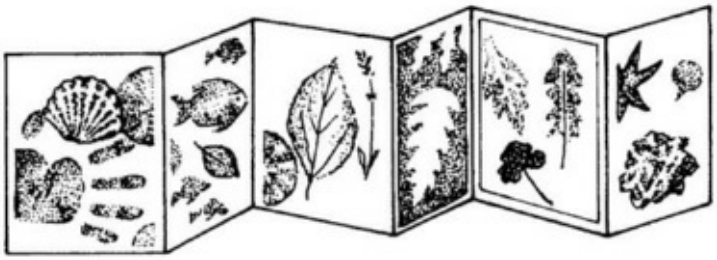
Freezer wrap

Masking tape

Tweezers

Paper (typing, copier, or newsprint)

Flat leaves (you can flatten curved leaves in a telephone book with weight on top for about thirty minutes)



Tempera prints can be cut out and combined with other media and glued to a three-dimensional, free-standing frieze made of sturdy folded paper.

1. Begin by preparing the tempera paints. For each color, mix eight parts tempera with three parts honey and two parts glycerin.

2. Prepare the work space. If working outside, keep out of the wind and direct sunlight or the paint will dry too fast. Cover table-top or other flat surface with newspapers or a washable covering. Tear a sheet of freezer wrap to serve as a palette. Attach freezer-wrap corners to the tabletop with masking tape.

3. Place a few drops of tempera mixture on the freezer-wrap palette. Too much paint on leaves results in a poor print. Use the dabber to thinly spread the tempera on the palette. Make an area of paint larger than the leaf you will be printing.

4. Fold a piece of printing paper in half, open it again, and lay it next to the palette.

5. Place a leaf in the middle of the spread tempera and dab the leaf, pressing all around until it's covered with a thin, even coat of paint. Pick up the leaf with the tweezers, turn it over, and repeat paint application on the other side.

6. Pick up the leaf carefully with tweezers and place it on one half of the printing paper. Don't move the leaf once it is on the paper. Fold the other half over the leaf and press on top with the help of your hand. If the leaf is larger than the heel of your hand, hold the paper down with one hand and press all around with the heel or fingers of the other hand, or use a gentle rubbing motion.

7. Open the folded sheet and carefully remove leaf with the tweezers. Notice that double printing doesn't produce a mirror image: Leaf veins are usually more prominent on the underside, showing more detail. If your prints are heavy, too much paint was used. If they appear pale and vague, use a little more paint.

8. Lay prints flat to dry.

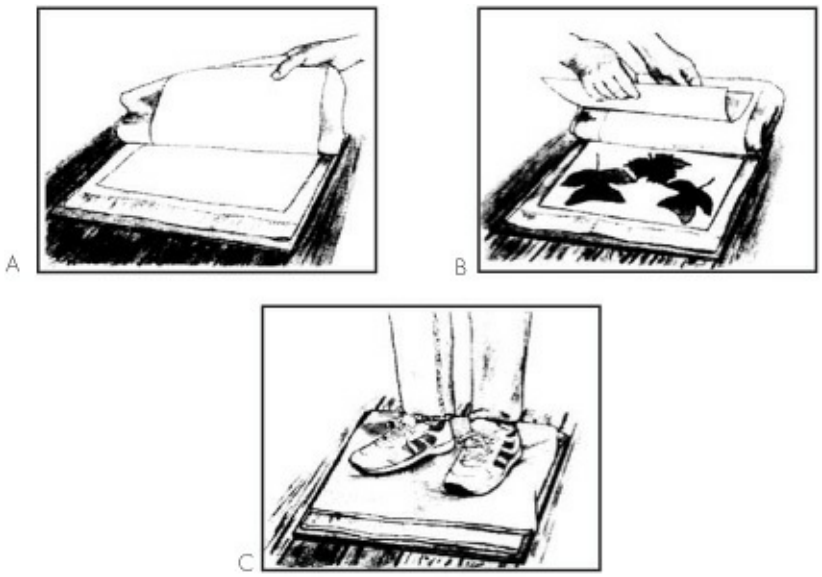
Make a "Walking Press"

A "walking" printing press is particularly fun for children and does not require any special supplies, just a smooth, solid floor or a sheet of plywood (make sure the plywood is bigger than your

print), a felt blanket, a sheet of newspaper, and printmaking paper.

Lay half of the felt blanket on the plywood or solid floor, leaving the rest to double over the top layer. Then place a sheet of newspaper on the blanket to keep it clean. Large or unwieldy plants should be laid inked-side up on the newsprint, with the printmaking paper then positioned on top, while smaller or easy-to-handle inked plants can be laid inked-side down on top of the printmaking paper. Lay another sheet of newspaper over the plants and printmaking paper, and cover the entire bundle with the remaining part of the blanket.

Now the press is ready for walking. With or without your shoes on, baby-step along the blanket to distribute your weight over the inked plants and paper sandwiched inside. Then pull back the top layer of the blanket, remove the prints (being careful not to smudge), and lay them flat to dry.



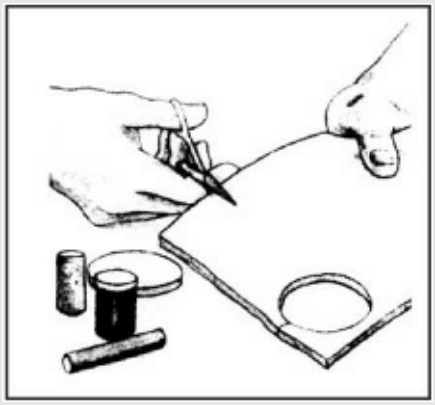
How to Make Your Own Dabbers

Dabbers are traditional tools that you can make from a variety of items, many of which you probably have around the house. Soft foam cosmetic sponges or dense foam blocks made for young children (often labeled bath blocks) are ready-made dabbers.

Just about any elongated object will serve as a handle for your dabber. Try using a bottle cork, a 35 mm film roll canister, a wooden dowel, a small medicine canister, an unsharpened pencil, or even a dried-up marker. Wrap a cover of dense foam over the top of the handle. You'll have to pre-cut the foam to fit. One type of an adhesive-backed vinyl foam, which is easy to use because it adheres to the handle, is Camper Mounting and Sealing tape, sold in auto-parts stores. You can also obtain sheets of continuous (not shredded) polyurethane foam from craft, fabric, and carpet stores. If you use this type of foam, you should cut the foam about three times wider than the width of the handle you are using, wrap it about one end, and secure it with a rubber band.

When you are done with your project, you can usually clean and reuse the foam tip of your dabber. If you're using a children's foam block, the dried, inked end of it can be shaved off with a

single-edge razor blade to expose a new surface. - 7 -



SUN PRINTS

adapted from *Let's Grow!*

These projects are best done in the spring and summer, when flowers are readily available and there is plenty of sunlight during the day. The sun works magic for you. All you need to provide is some special photographic paper and fixer.

What You Will Need

A sunny day (this will not work on an overcast day!)

Kodak Professional Studio Proof Paper (called P.O.P. or printing out-paper), single weight, white, smooth, glossy

A pane of glass an inch or two larger than the paper (make sure sharp edges have been ground smooth)

A piece of heavy cardboard the same size as the glass

Piece of cloth tape

Pressed and dried leaves, flowers, and grasses (see page 10)

Photographic fixer for black-and-white prints, in solution

Plastic or stainless-steel tray larger than the sun print paper

Tongs

Water and a sink

A new sponge

1. Mix the fixer according to manufacturer's directions. Do this several hours before you plan to make the sun prints, so it will have time to cool to room temperature.

2. Tape the glass to the cardboard along one edge to make a "book." This will hold the special paper and the meadow plants while the sun does its work. Clean the glass thoroughly.

3. Sun-print paper must be kept out of bright light. Pull the shades and turn off the lights.

4. Open the glass book and place the sun-print paper, glossy side up, on the cardboard. Arrange pressed grasses, leaves, and flowers on the paper to make a pleasing design. Don't be in a hurry! Try a few arrangements and decide what looks best. Close the glass to hold everything in place.

5. Hold the glass book tightly on the corners opposite the taped edge. Be sure your thumbs don't

cover the paper.

6. Go outside and let the sun shine directly on the book. Watch what happens! The sun-print paper turns purple, then dark brown. When it looks almost black (after three or four minutes), go back inside.

7. Keep the window shades down and the lights turned off. Open the glass and remove the plants. If you want to make more sun-prints, put this one between the pages of a book or in a black plastic bag until you're done exposing the rest to sunlight.

What would happen if you took your beautiful sunprint outdoors? The paper would turn completely dark. To preserve the design, you must "fix" the print.

8. Pour prepared fixer solution into the tray. Slide in your sun print(s). With the tongs, agitate the solution gently. Make sure the sun-print paper is completely under the fixer.

9. If you've used powdered fixer, keep the sun print in the solution for 10 minutes. With liquid mix, three or four minutes is long enough.

10. Fill a sink or large dishpan with water at a temperature of 65° to 75°F. Add the sun print(s). Keep the faucet running slowly into the basin and let the prints wash for 30 minutes.

11. Lay the sun prints face up on a blotter of paper towels. With a thoroughly rinsed new sponge, gently blot the excess water from the prints.

12. Let the prints air-dry. They will curl slightly. To flatten them, place between sheets of white paper and iron face down.

13. Mat and hang on the wall. Glue or dry-mount prints to greeting cards. Send special greetings to your favorite friends and relatives.

How to Press leaves and Flowers

What You Will Need

Leaves, flowers, and/or grasses

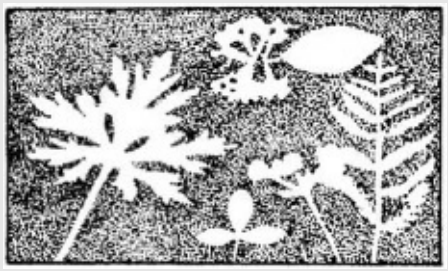
Newsprint or newspapers

Heavy books

In the spring and summer, collect small, thin flowers, leaves, and grasses for best results. A violet, for instance, presses more satisfactorily than a dandelion does. Ferns sometimes grow in a hedgerow at the edge of a meadow, and they press well, too.

Spread out the collected materials on thick pads of news-print. Make sure there are no curled edges on the leaves or flowers.

Stack the newsprint pads and weigh them down with a pile of heavy books. Leave for about two weeks. Allow the materials to dry thoroughly.



Use your pressed leaves, flowers, and grasses to make sun prints of meadow designs.

PRESSED FLOWER NOTEPAPER

adapted from *Let's Grow!*

Use pressed and dried meadow plants to make lovely greeting cards, notepaper, and stationery.

What You Will Need

Pressed and dried flowers, leaves, and/or grasses

Clear contact paper, cut into 6" × 7" pieces

6" × 7" heavy-weight paper for greeting cards, folded in half Scissors

1. Unfold your notepaper and lay it flat on a table or flat surface. Arrange your pressed plant material in a pleasing design on the bottom half (the front side, when folded) of the notepaper.

2. Peel the backing from the contact paper. Position it squarely over the design so that the edges of the contact paper extend ½ inch beyond the edges of the folded card. Press the contact paper against the notepaper to hold the pressed plants in place. Rub with your hand from the center to the edges to make it adhere and press out any air bubbles.

3. With the scissors, cut the bottom two corners of the contact paper at a 45° angle (from the corner of the contact paper to the corner of the notepaper) so that it will fold without creasing. Cut the top edge of the contact paper so that it is even with the fold in the notepaper.

4. Fold over the edges of the contact paper onto the back side of the notepaper, smoothing it with your fingers. Cut off any protruding corners, refold the notepaper, and you're done!

Variation: Change the size of the notepaper. Just cut the clear contact paper so there is a H-inch overlap on each edge. You can use this process to make bookmarks, place cards, or placemats.

APPLE PRINT HOLIDAY GIFT WRAP

adapted from *An Apple A Day!*

Make apple-printed gift wrap by stamping on plain-colored paper. Then wrap your presents in your own printed creations!

What You Will Need

Three large apples

Knife

6 colors of finger or tempera paints in holiday colors

6 paper plates or pie tins

Newspaper Colored

construction or gift-wrap paper

Smock

1. Get your grown-up helper to cut each apple in half crosswise.

2. Get a grown-up to help you cut a holiday design on the flat surface of an apple half. In the examples, the shaded areas are removed; the flat raised areas will print.

3. Pour a different color paint onto each paper plate. Spread out the newspapers over your worktable and place a piece of colored construction paper on top.

4. Carefully dip the flat surface (the design) into the paint, and then press it on the paper (see Printmaking Tips on page 13). - 12 -

5. Remember to clean up your work space thoroughly. Throw out the paper plates, put the apples into the compost or garbage, recycle the newspapers, and wash your hands. By the time you are done, your pictures should be dry!

Printmaking tips

You will get the best results if you use one apple for each color. If you mix your paints, they will turn gray!

The paint may make the apples slippery and hard to hold onto. Try using corn-cob holders to get a better grip.

For the Birds

Share the holiday spirit with our feathered friends and create festive outdoor displays on which to watch them feed on a winter's day.

CHRISTMAS TREE BIRD FEEDER

adapted from *Let's Grow!*

Transform a living tree in your yard, or, after you finish with your Christmas tree, stake it outside and decorate it for birds to use as a feeding station.

What You Will Need

Pine cones stuffed with peanut butter

Strings of cranberry, popcorn, and dried fruit

Small mesh bags of suet

Nosegays of wheat or other grains

Half rings of oranges filled with birdseed

Small ears of corn

Small dried heads of sunflowers

About Feeding the Birds

Once you begin feeding the birds, they will depend on you for food. Don't let them down. Stock a few feeders, so birds can move to another if frightened by a predator. Put feeders near shrubs or trees, so birds can perch there to check out the situation before they feed.

You can rig a simple feeder from a half-gallon milk carton or a gallon plastic jug.

If you are very patient, you may be able to coax a chickadee to take a sunflower seed right from your hand. Stand very, very still and call gently, "Chickadee-dee-dee." It may take a few days of trying before a black-capped friend feels brave enough to visit your hand.

PEANUT BUTTER LOG

adapted from *Birdfeeders, Shelters & Baths*

This quick and easy bird feeder is one that can be successfully made by young children and their parents. You may also want to sprinkle some wild birdseed on the peanut butter for an added treat. Then, hang it up and go sit down on your back porch and wait for the crowd to arrive!

What You Will Need

One 12" length of 2 × 2 rough wood

Small screw eye

Peanut butter

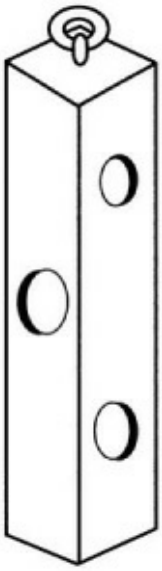
Nylon cord

1. Measure and cut the 12-inch piece of 2 × 2. Do not sand it. The rougher it is, the better.

2. Using a 1-inch bit, drill holes through the center of one side and the top and bottom about 4 inches from each end of the other side.

3. Attach a small screw eye at the top.

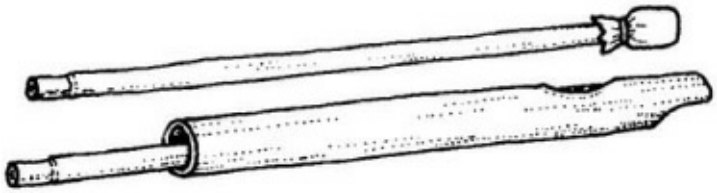
4. Fill the holes with peanut butter and go find a branch to hang the project from. Use nylon cord to attach the project.



BAMBOO BIRDCALL

adapted from *Everything You Never Learned About Birds*

Try something new by making your very own birdcall. Then use it to invite the birds over to feast from your bird feeders!



What You Will Need

A piece of bamboo,* 1” in diameter

A piece of bamboo,* ¾” in diameter

A bottle cork Sandpaper Cotton balls

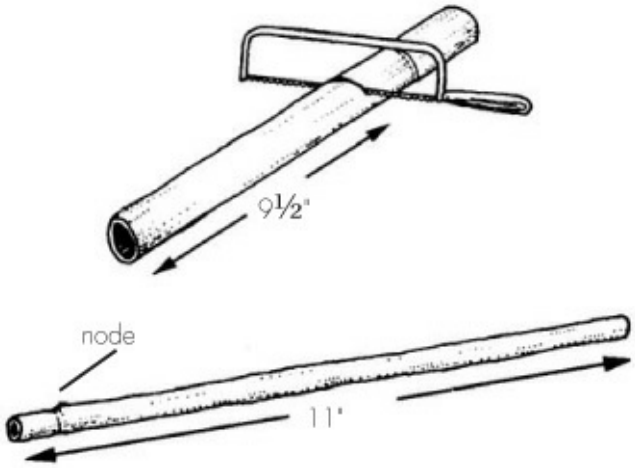
A small piece of soft cloth

Fine string

*Note: Bamboo is available from most craft stores

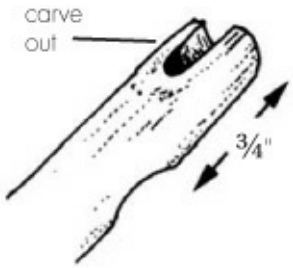
1. Cut the 1-inch-thick bamboo between the nodes to get a single piece, 9½ inches long.

2. Cut the narrower piece of bamboo to get one length 11 inches long, with a node at one end.



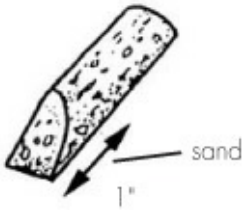
3. Carve a little slit 4 inches from one end of the wider piece of bamboo. Carefully enlarge the slit to form a round opening.

4. On the side opposite the carved V, starting ¾ of an inch from the end of the tube, carve an angled mouthpiece opening as shown.

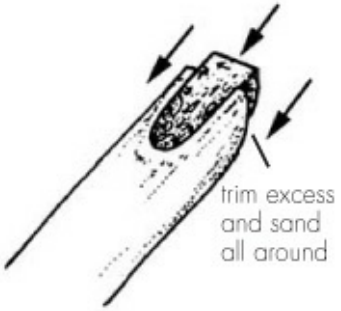


5. Slice the cork in half lengthwise. Sand the rounded side of the cork so that a 1" length is beveled.

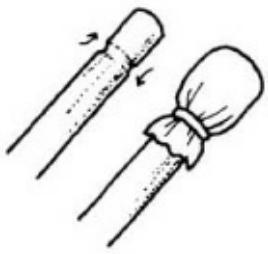
6. Shove the cork into the mouthpiece end of the wide bamboo. The flat side of the cork should be toward the round opening in the front; the beveled side toward the mouthpiece in the back. Poke the cork into the bamboo tube until about ¼ inch shows through the front V hole. Cut off any extra cork sticking out the top. Sand the mouthpiece and the beveled end of the cork so that the edges are smooth and tight.



7. Carve a narrow groove all around the thinner bamboo, about ¾ inch from the end without the node. Put a pair of cotton balls on either side of the bamboo, just above the carved groove. Wrap the cotton balls in a small circle of cloth and tie tightly in place with your fine string or thread. The string should sit in the carved groove. This is the stopper for your bird-call.



8. Insert the stopper into the wide bamboo tube. As you blow in the mouthpiece, pull the stopper up and down. Try to tweet like a bird.



Festive Cooking

What would the holidays be like without festive food to enjoy? Gifts from the kitchen are guaranteed to please all who receive them. Whether you paint some bread with colorful designs or make some edible ornaments, you are sure to have some cooking fun with these projects!

STAINED-GLASS HOLIDAY COOKIES

adapted from *Hearts and Crafts*

You will love making and giving this beautiful dessert. You can arrange the cookies on a plate and serve them to your friends, or hang the cookies on the Christmas tree or in the windows and let them catch the light.

What You Will Need

½ cup margarine

½ cup sugar

1 egg

1¾ cups flour

½ teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

Red raspberry jam Large bowl

Wooden spoon

Plastic wrap

Aluminum foil

Cookie sheet

1. Mix the margarine in the bowl with your wooden spoon to soften it. Add the sugar and egg and beat until it is creamy. Add the remaining ingredients. Mix until the batter is smooth and stiff. You might need to take turns with a grown-up helper or a brother or sister — mixing dough is tiring work!
2. Cover the dough in the bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least two hours.
3. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Place a piece of aluminum foil on the cookie sheet.
4. Take a small piece of the dough and roll it out into a rope that is about ¼ inch thick. Form your rope of dough into a holiday shape — small or large, whatever you decide to create. Some ideas are stars, trees, hearts, candy canes, stockings, and wreaths.
5. Fill the inside of the ornament with raspberry jam. Spread at least ¼ inch thick.
6. Bake the cookies for at least 10 minutes. The jam must bubble in order for it to harden as the cookies cool.
7. Let the cookies cool on the cookie sheet. Peel the aluminum foil off the back of each cookie.

Hanging Ornaments

If you want to hang your cookies after you bake them, poke a toothpick hole in the dough at the

very top of each ornament before you put the cookies in the oven. After the cookies are done, you can run a string or ribbon through the hole and hang your cookies on your Christmas tree, around the house, or in the window.

PAINTED HOLIDAY BREAD

adapted from *Hearts and Crafts*

Here's an extremely simple and healthy way to let your artistic talent shine through in the kitchen! Grab your paintbrush—a brand-new brush or one that has only been used for food — and let's go!

What You Will Need

1/2 cup milk

4 drops each of red and green food coloring

White bread

Small bowl

Brand-new paintbrush

Toaster

1. In separate small bowls, mix half of the milk and one of the food colorings.

2. Set your slice of bread on the counter or work surface and use the paintbrush and milk "paint" to paint a holiday design on your bread. Make one large design or several small ones. Paint only one side of the bread, and be sure not to let the bread get too soggy!

3. When your picture is done, put the bread in the toaster on a low setting. The heat from the toaster will bake your design into the bread.

4. Use the bread just as you would use any other. You can make a whole batch and store it in the refrigerator or in the freezer, so that you always have some on hand.

PUMPKIN PIE

adapted from *In A Pumpkin Shell*

This is a fun project for kids who want to get involved with holiday preparations. It's a simple and straightforward recipe that lets kids do most of the work!

For the Filling

2½ cups mashed, cooked pumpkin

2 15-ounce cans of condensed milk

4 eggs

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

MAKES TWO 8-INCH PIES

¼ teaspoon ground cloves

1 cup brown sugar, packed

Whipped cream (optional)

For the Crust

3 cups gingersnap crumbs

2 tablespoons honey

8 tablespoons melted butter

1 cup chopped nuts

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.

2. To make gingersnap crumbs, put gingersnaps, a handful at a time, into a paper bag. Fold over the top of the bag and then roll a rolling pin over the bag several times, pressing hard to crush the cookies.

3. In a big bowl, stir together the gingersnap crumbs and the rest of the crust ingredients. Use your fingers to really get everything mixed well. Then spread the crust dough evenly and firmly on the bottom and sides of the two pie plates.

4. In another large bowl, mix together all the filling ingredients except the whipped cream. Use a spoon to beat the mixture until it's completely smooth. Then pour the mixture into your pie shells.

5. Bake your pies for 50–55 minutes. When you think the pies are done, poke a knife carefully into the middle of each one. If it comes out clean, without any pie sticking to it, then your pies are ready to be taken out of the oven.

6. Serve your pie at room temperature or chilled. For extra sweetness, top with the whipped cream.

Decorative Crafts

Deck the halls with some of these festive projects! From ornaments and jewelry to crafts to display, you are sure to find something to make your holidays merrier. These gifts make wonderful keepsakes to be enjoyed by those you love.

MAKE YOUR OWN PYSANKY

adapted from *Everything You Never Learned About Birds*

You can make your own homestyle pysanky eggs to give as unique works of art. Decorate them with holiday patterns. The design you create will be white, so you may want to create a pysanky with a snowy winter scene.

Pysanky kits, which contain egg dyes, patterns, kystkas (a special drawing tool), and beeswax, can often be found in art-supply stores.

What You Will Need

White hard-boiled eggs

Beeswax (available in sewing departments)

Small metal container (bottle cap or jar lid)

Pan or metal pie plate

Pencils with erasers

Straight pins

Egg dyes or food coloring and cups

1. Put a small chunk of beeswax in the bottle cap or jar lid. Place this in a pan or pie plate and heat on top of the stove on low heat until melted. (An adult will need to help with this. Be very careful, wax is flammable.)

2. To make a homemade kystka, stick a straight pin into the eraser end of a pencil. Dunk the head of the pin into the melted wax. Use the wax to drip or draw patterns on the surface of the eggshell. This will take time. You'll have to dip your pin repeatedly to draw a complicated design.

3. When you have finished drawing, place your egg in cup of prepared dye. The wax design will stay white. When the egg is the color you want, take it out of the dye and let it dry. You can then wipe off the wax with a warm damp cloth or paper towel. You may then add more wax, and dip the egg in a different colored dye. Repeat as many times as you like.

All Things Ukrainian

www.allthingsukrainian.com/Supplies/Supplies.htm

Baba's Beeswax

www.babasbeeswax.com

LearnPysanky.com

www.learnpysanky.com

Ukrainian Gift Shop

www.ukrainiangiftshop.com

SALT-DOUGH JEWELRY

adapted from *Hearts and Crafts*

This is a very simple way to make yourself and those you love look festive. String a red-and-green beaded necklace or create some holiday pins and hair barrettes. You can paint your jewelry or leave it natural.

What You Will Need

2 cups whole-wheat flour
1 cup salt
¾ cup water
Mixing bowl
Cookie sheet
Nonstick cooking spray
Rolling pin
Cookie cutters in various holiday shapes
Spatula
Toothpick
Timer
Nylon cording
Pin backs and/or plain
barrette pieces
Watercolors and paint-brush(optional)
Dish towel

1. Combine the flour, salt, and water in the bowl, and mix with your hands until it forms an elastic dough that is easy to knead with your hands. This may take some experimenting — if it is too dry, add a little more water; if it is too wet and sticky, add a bit more flour.

2. Coat the cookie sheet with nonstick spray.

3. Roll a small piece of dough into a ball. Put it on the table and use a rolling pin to roll it out until it is about ¼ inch thick.

4. Using your cookie cutters, cut out as many shapes as you can. Use the spatula to move the cut-outs to the cookie pan.

5. To make beads, take small pieces of dough and rub them into little balls with your hands. Place these on the cookie sheet, and put a hole through the middle of each one. Make sure that the hole is big enough for the nylon cording to be threaded through.

6. Preheat your oven to 170°F. Ask your grown-up helper to put the cookie sheet in the oven. Set a timer for one hour.

7. After the hour is up, carefully check the jewelry pieces. If they are hard when you tap them, they are done. If you can indent them with your finger, put them in for another 15 minutes. Pieces thicker than ¼ inch usually take longer than one hour to "cook." Don't burn yourself when you test the clay! Let them cool for at least a half hour before using them.

8. Now your jewelry is ready to paint, if you like. Paint with the watercolors and let dry.

9. When your jewelry is cool, it is ready to be made into necklaces, pins, and barrettes. String beads on nylon cording (found at fabric stores). Other pieces can be made into pins or barrettes by gluing pin backs or plain barrette pieces (from an arts-and-crafts store) onto the backs with white glue, or by using a hot-glue gun.

Salt-Dough Ornaments

You can also create your own ornaments by following the instructions for the Salt-Dough Jewelry. Simply poke a small hole in the top center portion of each ornament cut-out with a toothpick before baking. Then paint them and add a thin piece of ribbon or some thick thread to hang your ornament from.

CREPE PAPER ORNAMENTS

adapted from *Easter Eggs by the Dozens!*

Bright bits of broken color splash out and surround crepe-paper ornaments. With bits of colored paper and blown eggshells, you can make great ornaments to decorate your house. This is one of the fastest, easiest, and liveliest ways to make great-looking mosaics. The vivid shades of tissue paper bring sparkling life to plain, white eggshell. Whether overlapping in random abandon or carefully placing in a pattern, these fragments of intense holiday colors are real attention-getters with their stained-glass appearance.

What You Will Need

Clean, dry, blown white eggs

Tissue paper in three or four holiday colors

White glue

Small paintbrush

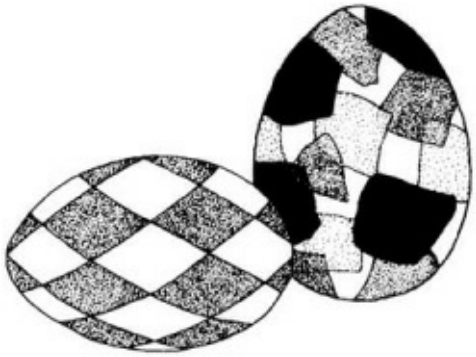
Shallow container (for thinned glue)

Finish

1. Decide on the look you want. Choose one or two light colors and a dark and a medium shade for high contrast.

It's easy (and quick) to start with a random design and work your way into more complex patterns later.

2. If working a planned pattern, keep the shapes simple, such as triangles or squares, and combine in a pleasing order. Basic quilt block patterns are a fine choice, but any type of geometric repetition works well.



3. Cut tissue paper shapes by folding paper over itself (up to eight thicknesses) and cutting out all the pieces at once. Place the tiny pieces in a dish or bowl.

4. For a random, or crazy-quilt look, cut or tear the pieces into small, irregular shapes.

5. Pour a little glue into shallow dish. Thin with water to the consistency of milk.

6. Brush the thinned glue onto a piece of tissue paper and place it, glue-side down, on the egg. Lightly press into place. Continue gluing, placing, and pressing until the entire egg surface is covered. Overlapping pieces will blend to create new shades. Torn pieces will blend more subtly than the sharp, distinct lines of cut pieces.

7. If you are working a pattern with open spots, cover the whole egg first with torn bits of white (or light-colored) tissue, let dry a few minutes, then apply the pattern pieces.

8. When dry, apply a coat of spray finish to prevent the dye in the paper from bleeding.

HOLIDAY-SHAPED CLAY CHECKERS

adapted from *Hearts and Crafts*

Making crafts with real clay is so much fun! Put on a smock, roll up your sleeves, and dig in! Set your checkers out in the living room and they become a festive decoration, ready to be played with by your holiday guests.

What You Will Need

2–3 sticks of self-hardening clay

Rolling pin

Small holiday cookie cutters

Standard checkerboard

Opaque paint (two colors) and paintbrush

1. Roll the clay out on a clean, smooth surface. It should be about ½ inch thick.

2. Using holiday cookie cutters, cut out 24 pieces. You may choose one shape (cut into 24 pieces), or two shapes (each shape cut into 12 pieces). Carefully pick them up and put them on a flat surface to dry where they can stay for at least three days without being disturbed.

3. After three days, check your checkers. If you can't squeeze them out of shape when you pinch them slightly, they are hard enough to use. If they aren't quite ready, be patient and let them sit for another day. Next, paint half of them one color and half in a second color. Let them dry again.

4. Set the 12 checkers of each color up on your checker-board, get yourself a partner, and you are ready to play.

Tips for Working with Clay

Put something underneath the clay when you are working with it. A plastic drop cloth is easy to work on, and it's reusable as well. Be patient while the clay is drying. Make sure your project is thoroughly dry before playing with it. Paint your checkers in great colors to give your game an extra ZING!

Colonial Crafts

Drying flowers and plants was considered an art during colonial times. In the fall, the colonists dried all sorts of natural materials from which they made toys and winter bouquets. Try making these traditional crafts from days gone by.

CORN HUSK DOLLS

adapted from *Let's Grow!*

Children in colonial times made corn husk dolls after the harvest in the fall.

What You Will Need

Dried corn husks and corn silks

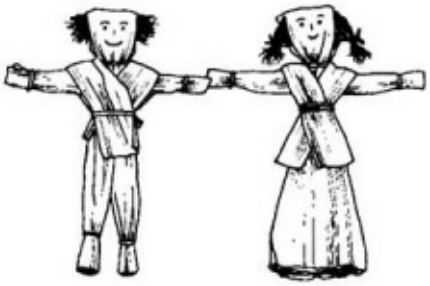
Water

Yarn or string

Scissors

Fine-point colored markers

White glue and brush



1. Prepare the husks by soaking them in warm water until they bend without cracking. Slit some into narrow strips to use for tying, or use yarn or string.

2. To form the head, lay several husks on top of each other. Fold in half. Tie under the fold to make the head. The part below the head will make up the body.

3. Slip some folded husks between the body husks, below the tie. Let them stick out on both sides to form arms. Tie at the place the "wrists" should be, and cut off the extra length of husk at the end of each "hand."

4. Tie the body husks again under the arms, to make a waist. For a girl doll, arrange the lower part of the husks into a skirt. For a boy doll, separate the husks into two parts and tie at the "ankles."

5. Glue corn silk on the head for hair. Add facial features with colored markers.

6. Use extra husks, corn silk, twigs, and buttons to make a broom, a rake, a pocketbook, a hat, or the like, for your doll.

ORANGE POMANDER

adapted from *An Apple A Day!*

A few wealthy colonists had hothouses in which they were able to grow oranges. Spicy orange pomanders make wonderful holiday gifts and decorations. Hang your pomander in the kitchen, bathroom, or a closet. Its spicy scent will last for years.

What You Will Need

1 perfect orange

1 ounce whole cloves

1 tablespoon cinnamon

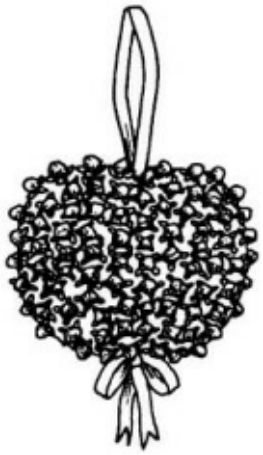
1 teaspoon nutmeg

1 teaspoon allspice

⅛ teaspoon ginger

An 18-inch length of ribbon

Bowl and skewer



1. Push the stem ends of the cloves into the orange — just close enough to touch. Cover the orange completely with cloves.

2. Mix the cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and ginger in the bowl. Roll the orange pomander in the spice mixture. Leave the pomander in the bowl in a warm spot for two or three weeks. Roll it in the spices occasionally to help the orange dry, harden, and shrink.

3. Have a grown-up helper pierce the pomander orange lengthwise with the skewer. Thread a double length of ribbon through the top of the pomander. Tie a knot and a bow at the bottom and make a loop for hanging at the top.

Holiday Gift Basket

Children can delight family and friends with a one-hundred-percent-homemade smorgasbord of gifts. With the proper materials (and an occasional grown-up helper), kids can make and package an assortment of holiday gifts. Adults will treasure the hand-decorated wrappings and decorations just as much as the carefully constructed gifts, and kids will delight in the excitement of putting together a unique gift for every special person on their list.

The Container

Whether it's a homemade card or a hand-decorated box, kids can use many of the projects in this bulletin to decorate the packaging of a holiday medley. Pull out the crayons, markers, and paints when it comes time to wrap!

Decorate a box, bag, or other container with bubble printing (page 3), tempera nature printing (page 4), or apple prints (page 12).

Make a card from a sun print (page 8), pressed flower note-paper (page 11), or a tempera nature print (page 4).

Decorate wrapping paper with apple prints (page 12), tempera nature prints (page 4), or bubble prints (page 3)

The Gifts

Any of the items listed below would make a wonderful addition to a holiday gift basket. Give your kids the gift of time, and help them to learn the joy of giving, by helping them make gifts for the special people in their lives.

Bamboo birdcalls (page 16)

Stained-glass holiday cookies (page 18)

Painted holiday bread (page 20)

Pysanky (page 22)

Salt dough jewelry (page 24)

Crepe paper ornaments (page 26)

Holiday-shaped clay checkers (page 28)

Corn husk dolls (page 29)

Orange pomanders (page 30)

Anything else kids like to make! Allow your kids the freedom to make gifts that suit their own imagination.

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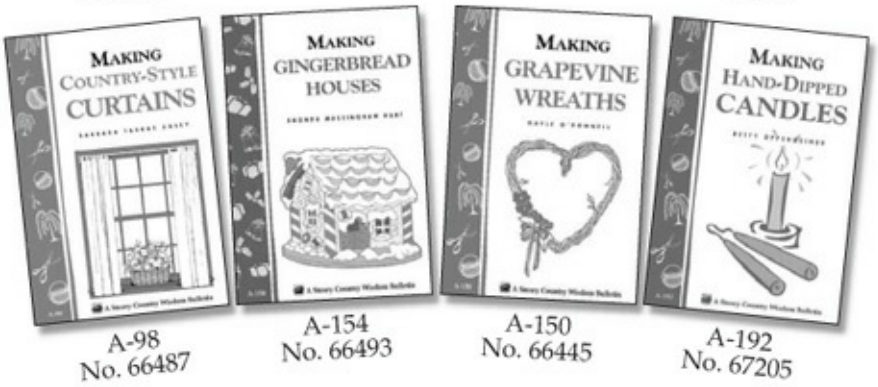

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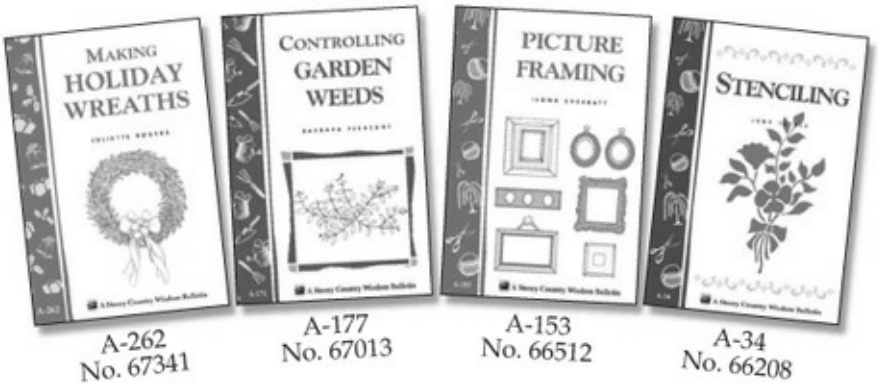

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